



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON
FOR THE YEAR 1957



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Public Health Department,
St. Paul's House,
Taunton.

July, 1958.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,

THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my sixth Annual Report for the year 1957.

The incidence of infectious disease, other than measles, during the year was low.

Very substantial progress has again been made in the housing problem but much remains to be done.

I wish to express my grateful appreciation to Alderman A. J. West, J.P., and the Public Health Committee for the unfailing help and consideration I have received and the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officials.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

LEO FAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1957.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	2,434
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year)	33,300
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed) at the end of 1957 (according to the rate books)	9,398
Rateable value at the end of 1957	£494,257
Estimated product of a penny rate	£1,955

The population figure shews a reduction of 750 on the previous year. This is due to a further 200 houses being built in the Rural District by the Borough, making a total of 772, approximating to 2,700 people. These houses, since April, 1958, are now inside the Borough boundaries.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births, live legitimate	Male 207	Female 208	Total 415	
Births, live illegitimate	Male 7	Female 14	Total 21	
Births, still legitimate	Male 1	Female 0	Total 1	
Births, still illegitimate	Male —	Female 1	Total 1	
Birth rate, total, corrected by factor 0.99	...	...	...	13.02
Live	„	„	...	12.96
still	„	„	...	0.06
illegitimate	„	„	...	0.66
Deaths, Male 207, Female 242		...	...	Total 449
Death rate, crude	...	...	...	13.48
corrected by factor 0.79	...	...	...	10.65
Deaths of infants under one year of age, Male 3, Female 5			Total	8
Infant Mortality rate	...	...	...	18.34
Deaths from Diarrhœa under two years of age	...	...	...	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	—

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	3	13
Malignant neoplasm, lung	9	1	10
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	32	54
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	2	2
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	33	51	84
Coronary disease, angina	36	20	56
Hypertension with heart disease	3	8	11
Other heart disease	31	56	87
Other circulatory disease	3	10	13
Influenza	3	—	3
Pneumonia	8	6	14
Bronchitis	10	6	16
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	4	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	6	9
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	17	33
Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	3
All other accidents	4	5	9
Suicide	4	2	6
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

One notes with interest that all the infectious diseases put together, including tuberculosis and influenza, only caused five deaths, compared with 36 twenty years ago. Malignant disease has risen from 64 to 86 but cardio vascular disease claims more than all other causes with a total of 251.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1957

<i>Disease</i>				<i>Originally notified</i>	<i>Removed to I. Hospital</i>	<i>Corrected Numbers</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	15	3	15	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	34	—	34	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—							
Paralytic	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
Non-paralytic	...	...	...	4	4	3	—
Measles	...	...	...	360	—	360	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	10	2	10	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	3	3	3	—
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—							
Infective	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	2	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	3	—	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—							
Respiratory	...	...	...	16	—	16	1
Non-respiratory	...	...	...	1	—	1	—

The incidence of infectious disease presented no special features during the year other than the heavy and protracted incidence of measles, which, however, was of a mild type in the main.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Three cases occurred in 1957, all of which were of the non-paralytic type.

The Council's quarantine scheme, which involves all domiciliary contacts being confined to the home and garden for three weeks, again worked smoothly and effectively in the two households affected.

Case	Children	Adults	Domiciliary Contacts Adults gainfully employed
1 }		3	
2 }	1	—	2
3 }	—	2	1

Of the three wage earning adults who were quarantined, two had their wages made up wholly by their employers, and the remaining one by the Borough Council, less N.H. insurance in all cases (on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health).

In both households complete co-operation was secured without any difficulty at all.

Thanks are due to the County Medical Officer for authorising the seconding of a Health Visitor to attend to the needs of each household. This service is an essential part of the scheme.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE.

231 children were inoculated against poliomyelitis during 1957.

The "Home and Garden" quarantine scheme which has operated both smoothly and efficiently should, in my opinion, be continued until such time as the supply of vaccine is sufficient to meet all demands.

TUBERCULOSIS

	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>
Cases on the Borough Register 31.12.57 ...	179 (229)	18 (29)
Number of new cases during the year ...	16 (15)	1 (3)
Number of deaths during the year ...	1 (2)	— (1)

(Figures in brackets are those of 1956)

The above figures as they are do not command attention. It is only when they are compared with, say the last decade before the war, that we realise that preventive medicine is quietly achieving another victory. There were 17 new cases last year and one death. The annual average in the "thirties" was 30 new cases and 17 deaths. This impressive result is due to many factors. Better

standards of living, better housing, X-ray facilities, modern drugs, an educated public opinion, the constant efforts of the medical and veterinary professions, have all combined together. It is unlikely, however, that this disease will ever become extinct, and the price of freedom remains unchanged.

WATER SUPPLY

The total amount of treated water put into supply in the Borough and adjoining areas was 617 million gallons. Although it was not found necessary to cut the supply during the year, the rainfall being above the average, the lack of filter and storage capacity, together with the ever-increasing demand, was responsible for an intermittent and inadequate supply in the higher reaches of the Borough and particularly in the more rural areas.

Substantial progress has been made with the new water scheme which, however, cannot come into service until 1960.

The raw water is an upland surface water reasonably soft and with no plumbo solvent action. Before distribution it is subjected to sedimentation, filtration and chlorination, and the following table indicates the efficiency of the treatment, which results in a water which is extremely safe, although occasionally the chlorination slightly affects its palatability.

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
25	—	1	—	219	3	2	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47

No cases were dealt with during the year.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Architect and the Housing Officer for the following tables:—

TABLE 1.

No. of Post-War Houses erected to 31st December, 1957		Programme for 1958	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
2,160	329	247	—

Houses required:—

To abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	27
To overcome unsatisfactory conditions	...	...	...	...	...	816
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1957	1,234					
Number of Council houses sold during the year	...	...	...	...	...	6

TABLE 2.

Details of Post-War Houses:—

						<i>Rent</i>
Temporary Bungalows	...	...	...	225		31/6
Permanent Bungalows	...	...	...	84		38/6
Woollaway Bungalows	...	...	...	1		38/6
Brick Bungalows	...	...	...	10		33/-
Bedsitting Room Flats	...	...	...	25	14/- - 13/6	
Four bedroomed houses	...	...	...	44	42/- - 40/-	
Three bedroomed houses	...	...	1,173		39/6 - 38/- - 37/-	
Two bedroomed houses	...	...	336		37/- - 36/-	
Two bedroomed flats	...	...	200	33/- - 31/- - 28/6 - 20/-		
One bedroomed flats	...	...	83	27/6 - 24/- - 19/6 - 15/-		
			2,181			

TABLE 3.

	Houses erected during 1957	In course of erection	Conversions
Local Authority ...	275	129	—
Private Enterprise	29	15	3

TABLE 4.

Condemned houses still occupied:—

Owned by the Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	6
Under requisition powers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Let by the Council as agents for the owners	...	...	...	...	...	2

1957 was again a good year for progress in housing and was marked by the completion of the 2,000th post-war house.

The new tenants must feel very satisfied with the standard of the houses now being erected, not merely in the planning and structure of the new homes so conducive to healthy living, but the amenities and labour saving devices are a tremendous advance on the pre-war house.

The waiting list of applicants for houses in Taunton is still long, despite all efforts. Presumably the answer is more and more new houses but it is a very lengthy and expensive solution, particularly when the new houses have to be re-erected far from the place of work involving journeys costly in time and energy. Since 1946 the population of Taunton has increased by approximately 10% and the number of inhabited houses has increased by 14%, which means an absolute increase of 330 houses after allowing for increase of population.

Under occupation inevitably plays a part in creating a demand for more houses. The Housing Committee make every effort to keep this factor as low as possible, effecting 161 transfers during 1957. It is, however, non-realistic to expect the maximum usage to be made of all the existing housing accommodation, both Council and private, in the town.

1. Houses to be completed between 1st January, 1958
and 31st December, 1958 147
2. Houses expected to be in contract between 1st Jan-
uary, 1958 and 31st December, 1958 but not com-
pleted 100

247

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Twenty-six applications were approved and two were rejected. This can only be described as disappointing in view of the potential value of this facility. It must be admitted, however, that to a property owner investing more money in his property, an 8% return has not been a particularly attractive proposition.

In view of the foregoing the following instance of co-operation between property owners and the Council, supplied by the Town Clerk, is of special interest and there is good reason to hope that this may be followed by further instances.

Early in 1957 the Trustees of the Taunton Town Charity applied to the Council for financial assistance to enable them to carry out improvements to the Almshouses in St. James's Close which provides eight units of accommodation. This work consisted of new bathrooms and indoor toilets, increased fuel and food storage and improvements to the hot water system at the Almshouses.

It is pleasing to note that the Council looked favourably upon this application and with the consent of the Minister of Housing and Local Government entered into an agreement with the Trustees for financing the improvements. The Council agreed to advance to the Trustees the total cost of the improvements (£4,400) by means of a mortgage at the current rate of interest repayable over 20 years and also to make to the Trustees an annual grant of £336 5s. 9d. towards the annual repayments of the mortgage. The Exchequer contributed £204 per annum towards this grant so that the Council's own contribution is £132 5s. 9d. The sum of £75 15s. 10d. per annum is borne by the Charity.

Once again it must be repeated that, apart from other advantages, the utilisation of this Act is one of the best and surest methods of preventing the development of slums in the not too distant future.

Improvements Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949-54

	Received		Approved		Rejected	
	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings	Applica- tions	No. of dwellings
31.7.49—31.12.56	92	102	83	88	5	10
During year ...	31	67	26	26	2	2

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers 26

Average cost per dwelling approved £147

HEALTH SERVICES

Administered in Taunton M.B. by the Somerset County Council

Ante-Natal Clinic

This is held at the Health Centre, Tower Lane, on Mondays (Assistant County Medical Officer in attendance) and Wednesdays (Midwives in attendance).

The attendances in 1957 were :—

			<i>Mondays</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total attendances	...	...	223	824	1,047
New cases	...	...	204	175	379

Post-Natal Clinic

This is held at the Health Centre, Tower Lane, on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month. The attendances in 1957 were :—

Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	6
New cases	...	...	...	...	...	2

Premature Baby Service

In addition to the arrangements for the care of full-time children a special service is provided for premature infants. If there is a risk that a child will be born after less than 37 or 38 weeks' gestation arrangements are made for the admission of the expectant mother to Musgrove Park Hospital, where special facilities are available and special equipment is provided where necessary.

On the birth of a child it is visited at home, with the co-operation of the Health Visitors, by Assistant Nursing Officers with special training for this work.

During 1957, 32 premature infants were born in hospitals, of whom seven died; ten were born at home, of whom one was removed to hospital. All survived.

Home Visiting of Infants

This is carried out by four Health Visitors. Their work in 1957 included :—

First visits to children under five years of age	...	...	534
Re-visits to children under five years of age	...	...	4,140
Visits to ante-natal cases	...	...	22
Other visits (infectious diseases, old people, etc.)	...	...	904
			5,600

Infant Welfare Centres

There are now three held in the town :—

Tower Lane, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

All Saints Church Hall, Halcon, on Wednesday afternoons

Harcourt Street Adult School, on Friday afternoons.

During 1957 the attendances of infants at these centres totalled 6,302, including 428 new cases.

Immunisation of Infants against Diphtheria

Year	Total “Primaries” under 5 years	Live births of preceding year, i.e., “potential”	Percentage immunised	Total “Primaries” 5-14 years	Total reinforce- ments
1957	308	469	65.67	79	269

Distribution of Welfare Foods

National dried milk, orange juice and cod liver oil for infants and vitamin tablets for expectant mothers, provided by the Ministry of Food, are distributed at the Welfare Centres. In addition valuable food accessories, such as certain proprietary brands of dried milk, breakfast cereals, rose hip syrup and malt extract, are distributed to mothers and children by the voluntary workers of the Taunton Infant Health Society.

Orthopædic Clinic

This is held in the Health Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays, the Surgeon attending twice a month. This service is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board but is administered on an agency basis by the Somerset County Council.

Dental Clinic, Tower Lane

The treatment given to school children was as follows :—

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—

(a) Periodic age groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,729
(b) Specials	...	...	...	...	...	...	666
Total							2,395

(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	1,769
(3) Number offered treatment	...	...	...	...	1,183
(4) Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	994
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment including orthodontic patients	...	...	...	...	2,762
(6) Half-days devoted to :—Inspection 18.	Treatment	353	...	...	371
(7) Fillings :—					
Permanent teeth 1,497.	Temporary teeth 194	...	...	...	1,691
(8) Number of teeth filled :—					
Permanent teeth 1,359.	Temporary teeth 181	...	...	...	1,540
(9) Extractions :—					
Permanent teeth 474.	Temporary teeth 1,198	...	...	...	1,672
(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction	...	...	...	...	Nil
(11) Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures	...	...	...	...	13
(12) Other operations :—					
Permanent teeth 431.	Temporary teeth 160	...	...	...	591

The treatment given to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children is shown below :—

				<i>Adults</i>	<i>Pre-school Children</i>
(1) Number of cases inspected	...	...	...	22	72
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	18	70
(3) Number of cases treated	...	...	...	19	66
(4) Number of attendances	...	...	...	59	101
(5) Administration of general anæsthetics	...	...	...	—	—
(6) Number of teeth extracted	...	...	...	54	106
(7) Number of teeth filled	...	...	...	17	2
(8) Number of fillings	...	...	...	21	4
(9) Scaling and gum treatment	...	...	...	4	—
(10) Silver Nitrate treatment	...	...	...	—	7
(11) Number of X-ray examinations	...	...	...	—	—
(12) Other treatment	...	...	...	15	23
(13) Dentures provided	...	...	...	1	—

The Day Nursery

This is situated at Victoria Park, East Reach, and is open each weekday except Saturdays and public holidays.

Accommodation is provided from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a maximum of 30 children.

The average daily attendance during 1957 was 19, the vast majority of the children on the register belonging to the Priority 1 group.

Home Help Service

This service is administered in the County Hall, Taunton.

During 1957, 252 Borough residents received assistance in their homes. These included the following types of cases:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	26
Old age	...	...	...	...	...	112
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	41
Post operation	...	...	...	...	...	14
Post and pre-natal		...	...	...	...	20
Child Care	...	...	...	...	...	4
Emergency illness	...	...	...	...	...	29

Some 42 of these have received help from the service for over a year.

Ambulance Service

The main ambulance station and control for the south-west of the County is situated at the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital. These premises are to be extended to provide the accommodation needed for a station and control of this size, and it is hoped that the new building will be completed towards the middle of 1958.

The service is a 24-hour one. Since the last report the number of vehicles has been reduced because of the expansion of the Ilminster Ambulance Station. The Taunton Station continues to cover a wide area and at the 31st December the establishment was :—

Vehicles—5 Ambulances
3 Sitting-case Ambulances
1 Car

Staff— 1 Station Officer
4 Senior Drivers
14 Driver/Attendants

Details of the patients carried and mileage run by these vehicles are :—

Vehicles	Patients carried	Mileage run
Ambulances ...	7,297	63,275
Sitting-case Ambulances ...	9,989	65,010
Cars ...	4,491	26,584

All the vehicles at this station are now fitted with radio, and in addition to the main transmitter situated on the Blackdown Hills, which is operated from the Ambulance Station through a Post Office telephone land line, a standby equipment is available at the Station to provide local cover during breakdowns. This will be incorporated in the new building and, by the additional height of the mast which will then be introduced, it is anticipated that the area of cover provided by the local set will be considerably increased. Thus, during periods of breakdown of the main transmitter, it is hoped that the efficiency of the service can be maintained.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1957

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report for the twelve months ending December 31st, 1957.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing and General Sanitary Work

Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts ...	234
Re-inspections	284
Infectious diseases, in connection with	25
Factories	56
Drainage, in connection with	363
Rodent Control (excluding visits made by Rodent Operator)...	62
Houses let in lodgings	1
Moveable dwellings	81
Stables, piggeries	14
Offensive trades	6
Smoke observations	39
Verminous premises	54
Common lodging houses	1
Refuse disposal, in connection with	22
Shops	30
Interviews	220
Cinemas and places of entertainment	5
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	145
Pet shops	5

Housing Repairs

The work of repairs to houses is still being dealt with under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1936. During the year the following work was carried out:—

Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	38
Doors renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sink waste pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	17
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	27
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	65
Rain water pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	33
Dampness eradicated	...	...	...	...	...	11
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Skirting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drains repaired, relaid or cleared	...	...	...	...	...	72
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
New W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	...	14
Septic tanks emptied	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Gulleys provided	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cesspits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	1
New floors provided	...	...	...	...	...	9
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	...	4

Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 and 12.

Proceedings were commenced under Section 11 in respect of one house that was in such a condition as to be unfit for habitation. As a result the owner submitted a specification of works to render the house fit and this was embodied in an undertaking to carry out the work. The undertaking was accepted, and the work was ultimately carried out.

A Closing Order made under Section 12 on part of a building in 1952 was determined during the year, the works necessary to make the premises fit for habitation having been carried out.

Complaints

During the year 645 complaints were received at the Health Department. These complaints had reference to the following matters:—

Housing conditions	...	...	...	...	...	109
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	97
Rats or mice	...	...	...	...	...	174
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	145
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	66
Pests (Insects)	...	...	...	...	...	54

All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken.

Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954—Section 6

At the commencement of the year 17 houses that had been closed under Clearance Orders were being occupied under powers conferred by the above Act. During the year 16 houses were closed as being unfit for further occupation, bringing the total number of houses occupied under the Act to 1.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 24

During the year 22 sewers were found to be choked, and were cleansed by the Corporation. Sewers dealt with under this section are those that were maintainable by owners of property under previous Public Health Acts.

RENT ACT, 1957

This Act came into force in July, 1957, and by the end of the year 12 applications for certificates of disrepair had been received. In six cases the landlords submitted undertakings to carry out repairs to the houses, and in the other six cases certificates of disrepair were issued. One certificate of disrepair was cancelled by the end of the year.

VERMIN

During the year 32 premises were treated for various forms of insect pests with satisfactory results.

Rodent Control.

The Corporation's Rodent Operator continued the systematic search for rodents, and treatment of premises where infestation was found. The following work was carried out during the year :—

Treatment at private dwellings	...	...	...	...	147
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	741
Treatments at business premises	...	...	...	...	77
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	286
Treatments at Council premises	...	...	...	...	10
Visits involved	...	...	...	...	52
Survey visits	...	...	...	...	494

Disinfection

Disinfection of premises and bedding after the occurrence of disease, or after death, was carried out to 9 houses.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Public Health Act, 1936

Common Lodging Houses (closed 20.4.57)	...	...	1
Offensive Trades—			
Tanners	...	...	1
Hide and Skin Depots	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Merchants	...	...	3
Moveable Dwellings—			
Sites for moveable dwellings	...	...	3
Individual moveable dwellings	...	...	15

The Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Registered Premises	9
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Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Section 86

Dealers in old metal and places of business registered under this Section	9
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Pet Animals Act, 1951

Licences to keep pet shops	4
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The conditions prevailing at the above premises during the year were found to be satisfactory.

Sampling of Swimming Bath Water

During the year 80 samples of the water at the St. James' Street Baths, taken at the inlet and outlet ends, were tested for residual chlorine. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION

Visits in connection with the inspection and supervision of foods and food premises

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1,246
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	...	288
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	95
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	21
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	62
Restaurants, Hotels and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	91

Milk Supply

There are 14 registered dairies and 21 registered distributors of milk operating within the Borough. Two of the distributors operate from premises outside the Borough. Fifteen of the local distri-

butors hold licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, seventeen hold licences to sell Pasteurised Milk and two hold licences to sell Sterilised Milk, whilst two of the distributors from outside the Borough hold supplementary licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, one for Pasteurised Milk, and one for Sterilised Milk.

There are two milk pasteurising plants operating within the Borough, but these are controlled by the Somerset County Council.

Sampling of Milk sold under Special Designations

During the year 30 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk, 61 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk and 5 samples of Sterilised Milk being sold within the Borough were submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination. Of these 29 of the Tuberculin Tested samples and all the Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) and sterilised samples were reported as being satisfactory. One sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk was reported as being unsatisfactory. All unsatisfactory reports are referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for investigation.

Ice Cream

The registrations of premises under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream are as follows :—

Manufacture and sale	...	...	...	...	3
Storage	...	...	...	...	1
Storage and sale	...	...	...	...	108

Sampling of Ice Cream

During the year, 67 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. The results were as follows :—

					Hot mix	Cold mix
Grade 1	...	...	...	...	42	16
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	2	2
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	3	1
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	1	—

Food Inspection

As a result of inspection of food at foodshops and warehouses, the following commodities were condemned :—

CANNED FOOD

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	398	tins
Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	15	„
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	6	„
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	19	„
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	21	„
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	263	„
Fruit juice	...	...	...	...	...	41	„
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	75	„
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	50	„
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	16	„
Carrots	...	...	...	...	...	4	„
Other vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	20	„
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	27	„

OTHER FOODS

Cooked Meat	...	...	...	...	...	41	lbs.
Wet fish	...	...	...	...	...	116	„
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	35	„
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	1½	„
Cake	...	...	...	...	...	24½	„
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	48	„
Meat paste	...	...	...	...	...	17	jars
Fish paste	...	...	...	...	...	10	„
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	24	„
Spreads	...	...	...	...	...	7	„
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	4	„
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	6	„
Geese	...	...	...	...	...	6	„
Jellies	...	...	...	...	...	4	„
Kippers	...	...	...	...	...	59	prs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	1	box
Cooking fat	...	...	...	...	...	2	pkts.
Smoked hams	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Walnuts	...	...	...	...	...	78	lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Prosecutions

Police Court proceedings were instituted under the above Act with respect to the following cases :—

Trader.	Offence.	Result of case.
Grocer	Sale of mouldy bread	Fine imposed
Dairyman	Dirty milk bottle	do.
Baker	Metal in bread	do.
Butcher	Mould in meat pie	do.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

During the year the inspection of all types of premises to which these Regulations apply has continued; and the total number of visits, including "initial inspections" and "follow-ups" was 585. Although as much time as possible was spent on inspections, other duties have restricted the work and about 25% of the premises in the Borough have yet to receive their initial detailed inspection.

The visits and informal notices served during the previous year have resulted in a very significant improvement in the structural condition, decoration and equipment of all premises. Thirteen premises have been the subject of major works of reconstruction, and a total of 627 items have received attention. Most notable of these items has been the installation of 50 wash hand basins, 31 sinks, 66 hot water units and 15 refrigerators.

Generally it has been found that the Occupiers of premises have been very co-operative in meeting the requirements of the Regulations, and in no instance has it been necessary to resort to Statutory action. One of the most difficult of the Regulations to enforce has been the one dealing with smoking in food rooms, but a number of written warnings to the firms and persons concerned seems to have achieved the desired result.

Summary of works carried out at all premises in 1957

	Butchers & Fish- mongers	Bakers and Dairies, etc.	Grocers and Green- grocers	Catering Establish- ments	Licensed Premises	Total
Works of major reconstruction ...	2		3	2	6	13
Food Rooms.						
Walls renewed or repaired ...	3	1	8	3	9	24
Walls redecorated ...	6	2	7	17	16	48
Ceilings renewed or repaired ...	3	—	6	2	3	14
Ceilings redecorated ...	6	—	7	6	14	33
Floors repaired or renewed ...	3	—	8	9	11	31
Improvement of lighting ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Improvement of ventilation ...	—	—	1	4	9	14
Drainage renewed or repaired ...	3	2	1	—	4	10
Cleansing of premises ...	2	—	—	—	—	2
Roofs underdrawn ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Equipment, Etc.						
New sinks provided ...	2	1	9	4	15	31
Hot water supply provided ...	5	1	11	3	11	31
New drainage boards provided ...	1	—	1	6	13	21
Preparation tables re-topped ...	4	—	6	7	1	18
New equipment, etc., provided ...	3	—	6	12	—	21
Dustbins provided ...	7	1	7	6	1	22
Means of protection of food pro- vided ...	4	—	5	6	6	21
Stainless steel tables provided ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
New refrigerators provided ...	6	—	5	4	—	15
Sanitary Accommodation.						
New W.C.s or urinals installed ...	1	—	6	5	12	24
New flushing cisterns provided ...	1	—	3	2	6	12
Sanitary accommodation repaired ...	—	—	1	1	7	9
Sanitary accommodation redecor- ated ...	—	—	1	2	5	8
Improved lighting ...	1	—	1	—	—	2
Sanitary Notices fixed ...	14	2	9	18	1	44
Intervening ventilated space pro- vided ...	—	1	2	—	—	3
Toilet Accommodation.						
Wash-hand basins provided ...	12	1	19	6	12	50
Hot water supply provided ...	12	1	17	4	1	35
Toilet requisites provided ...	3	—	6	4	1	14
Redecoration of toilet accommoda- tion ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Provision of locker accommodation ...	1	—	2	1	—	4
Provision of paper towels ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Miscellaneous.						
Protective clothing provided ...	1	—	5	1	—	7
Treatments for vermin ...	—	—	1	—	—	1
Fly destruction units fixed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Provision of first-aid materials ...	9	3	17	4	8	41
Totals ...	117	16	181	141	172	627

Meat Inspection.

The slaughtering of food animals is carried on in three licenced slaughterhouses and a bacon factory.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	1,692
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	395
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	8,852
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	417
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	30,687

The inspection of the above carcasses revealed disease at set out in the following table :—

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep, Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,692	395	417	8,852	30,687
Number inspected	1,692	395	417	8,852	30,687
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B.	4	1	—	15	67
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned	575		3	388	1,007
Percentage of number inspected * affected with disease other than T.B.	27.79%		.71%	4.55%	3.49%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> —					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	5	—	—	6
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned	137		—	—	2,655
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	7.04%		—	—	8.67%

*The percentage of diseases other than T.B. in cattle is greatly distorted by the prevalence of flukes in bovine livers.

In addition, the following meat was condemned on butchers' premises on account of bone taint and other causes :—

Home-killed Beef	...	...	...	160 lbs.
Home-killed Pork	...	...	...	20½ lbs.

METEOROLOGICAL READING FOR 1957

Month	Barometer			Thermometer			Sunshine			Rainfall			
	Mean	Max.	Min.	Mean	Max.	Min.	Hours	Max. Reading	No. of Sunless Days	Inches	Days Rain fell	Days with 0.04in. or more	Max. Reading
January	30.11	30.70	29.42	43.02	57	23	39	5.25	16	1.78	20	11	.49
February	29.64	30.36	28.84	42.41	55	24	88.5	8.5	5	3.99	21	18	.59
March	29.82	30.14	29.41	49.11	62	25	105.25	8.75	6	1.82	15	11	.46
April	30.17	30.50	29.90	47.83	66	30	153.00	10.25	1	.03	3	—	.01
May	30.03	30.33	29.48	50.79	72	31	234.75	14.0	3	1.57	11	7	.59
June	30.05	30.56	29.60	59.15	84	38	301.0	15.0	—	3.81	9	5	2.30
July	29.94	30.29	29.50	61.66	81	41	183.0	14.75	—	2.44	19	12	.54
August	29.96	30.36	28.99	60.80	80	40	164.5	12.75	—	2.09	14	8	.61
September	29.94	30.36	29.56	54.80	70	31	124.0	10.75	4	2.67	18	11	.81
October	30.03	30.39	29.52	51.89	66	31	72.50	8.25	7	1.93	13	9	.51
November	30.06	30.50	28.89	42.87	55	26	63.25	7.5	14	2.11	6	5	.98
December	29.83	30.44	28.71	40.51	57	19	37.0	4.25	17	2.57	17	9	.96
TOTAL	29.93	—	—	49.68	—	—	1,565.75	—	73	26.81	166	106	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes as to provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	6	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	233	50	10	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' premises) ...	9	—	—	—
TOTAL	270	56	10	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	1	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to outwork)	6	6	—	—	—
TOTAL	13	13	—	5	—

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list	Section 110		Section 111	
		No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel ...	413	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. GOUGH,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

